

# REETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Reeth Rural  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

The following is my Report for the year 1920.

The population of the District at the Census (1911) was 2,396. It is increased during the summer months by visitors from more populous places. The area is 74,538 acres or 116 square miles. The density of the population is <sup>21</sup>~~9~~ to the square mile, compared with 618 for England and Wales. It is on the mountain limestone geological formation, and has an altitude of from about 600 to 2200 feet above the level of the sea. It is almost entirely moorland and permanent pasture, and is well watered by the river Swale and its tributary becks. Most of the inhabitants are employed in rearing sheep and cattle. There is, however, a chert quarry at Fremington, and two or three small coal-pits, yielding coal of poor quality for local needs. Lead-mining which was at one time the principal industry, is now entirely given up.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

42 births were registered (19 males, 23 females), a birth-rate of 17.52 per 1000 inhabitants. 25 deaths (14 males, 11

females), excluding two temporary residents who came into the District in search of health and died shortly afterwards, both from pulmonary tuberculosis, a death-rate of 10.43 per 1000. One death of an infant under 1 year of age was registered, being at the rate of 23.8 per 1000 births registered. 19 of the deaths, or 76 per cent of the total were of persons 60 years of age and upwards. The rates are calculated on the Census (1911) population.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH.

Diphtheria	...	...	3	Cancer	...	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	1	Cerebral Hemorrhage				4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis			1	Chronic Bright's Disease				1
Heart Disease		...	9	Accident		...	...	2
Premature Birth		...	1					

The amount of Poor Law Relief for the year ending September 30th, 1920, was £234. There is no hospital or other form of gratuitous medical relief.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

#### WATER.

This is abundant and of good quality, derived from mountain springs. Water tanks and stand-pipes for the use of the inhabitants are provided at all the Villages. New pipes have been put down at Arkletown.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The water courses are not polluted to any extent. The sewage from Reeth is passed over an irrigation meadow.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Privies and dry closets are in use almost everywhere, except at Reeth, where there are several water closets.

### **SCAVENGING.**

This is done by the householders themselves, the contents of the privies are utilised as manure on the land. Dry rubbish and ashes are removed to waste places provided by the Council.

### **SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.**

This is carried out from time to time. There are no common lodging houses or offensive trades. No legal proceedings have been taken against anyone.

### **SCHOOLS.**

There are no private schools. The sanitary condition and water supply of the elementary schools is satisfactory. It would be an advantage if the main drain at Reeth could be brought up to the school, so that the present cesspool might be dispensed with.

Reeth and Low Row schools were both closed 4 weeks owing to the prevalence of measles, and Reeth school a month on account of an outbreak of diphtheria. Arken-garthdale school was also closed a week owing to the prevalence of mumps.

### **FOOD.**

Milk is supplied to the inhabitants from the farms. There are no places where milk is publicly exposed for sale. No action has been taken under the "Milk (Mothers and Children's) Order, 1919."

There are three small slaughter-houses. No carcasses or parts of carcasses were condemned for tuberculosis.

There is one bakehouse at Reeth. Most of the housewives bake their own bread.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

An outbreak of Diphtheria occurred at Reeth in October, introduced from outside the District. The diagnoses were confirmed by bacteriological examinations, and several of the contact cases were protected by antitoxin. There were a few cases of Measles. 26 primary vaccinations and one re-vaccination were performed. Many of the parents obtain certificates of exemption.

<i>Number of cases notified.</i>	<i>Rate per 1000.</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis - 5 (Excluding 2 non-residents)	2.08
Other forms of Tuberculosis 2	.83
Erysipelas - - - 5	2.08
Diphtheria - - - 5 4	1.67
Ophthalmia Neonatorum - 1	23.8 (per 1000 births)

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are no midwives practising in the District. The case of ophthalmia proved a very mild one and left no permanent injury.

## HOUSING.

There is no scarcity of houses in the District owing to the decrease of population. Every census for many years has shown a decline. In 1871 the population was 5,370, more than twice what it is now. No cases of overcrowding have been observed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. J. CONNON.

March 4th, 1921.